Progress of the Negro – 1932

NEW HAVEN, CONN.
JOURNAL COURIER
MAY 21 1932

Negroes And Progress.

PRESIDENT HOOVER sent a message the other day to the twenty-third annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He praised them for the progress they have made since their liberation and for the contributions they have made to American life, calling it, "an amazing story of courage and enterprise in which the colored people take a proper pride, and which their neighbors of other races view with satisfaction and admiration." Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior, in personal greeting, said that the Negro has progressed and has attained a place in the life of every city, but that in so doing he has deprived himself of his greatest friend, the sun.

The history of the Negro race is a long series of tragedies. The white man owes the Negro a debt which cannot easily be repaid. Today in the South the Negro occupies the lowest step on the stairs of society. The white man is his friend but apparently on the same basis that a man can be a friend to a hungry dog. Northern people are credited with a more liberal attitude toward the colored man. It is true that he enjoys more freedom, but when there is an analysis of his rights in the North, it takes no expert to see that his plight is tragic. Crowded together in tenements the Negro lives with his family. He is not fitted for city life, and disease has claimed thousands of his kind because of the unspeakable living conditions. When Dr. Wilbur referred to the sun as the Negro's best friend, he was referring to the conditions under which the colored man must live.

But in spite of all these handicaps the Negro advances. Young Negroes are making tremendous sacrifices to obtain education and culture, and then, with the same self-sacrificing spirit, they go out to teach their people. At the present time the Negro race suffers the brunt of the depression. The unemployment period for Negroes began in cities at the beginning of 1929. They are entering the fourth year of destitution and despair. A word from the President comes at a time when it is desperately needed. The Negro needs help. Unless he can get it he will lose the advancements he has already achieved.

NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE

MAY 19 1932

Negroes Making Rapid Strides, Says President

He Cites Enterprise and Courage Since Liberation, in Message to Convention

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, May 18.—President Hoover, by message, and Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, secretary of the Interior, in personal greeting, welcomed the opening business session today of the twenty-third annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Both the President and his cabinet officer hailed the advances made by the colored race in all phases of activity. Their progress is viewed with "satisfaction and admiration" by their neighbors of other races, Mr. Hoover declared. Dr. Wilbur, who stressed particularly the need of better health surroundings for urban Negroes, urged planning for amicable relations between the races.

The business session devoted to the role of the Negro in politics brought sharp sallies at the expense of both Republicans and Democrats. The central theme of most of the speakers was a plea for independence of political action as the best method of obtaining attention for the interests of Negroes.

Mr. Hoover's Message

Secretary Wilbur told the conference he had stopped to see the President on his way to the meeting and that Mr. Hoover had put a message of greeting in his hand, saying that he was sending it with a distinct feeling of personal interest.

The President's message follows:

I am prevented by press of public duties from being present at the twenty-third annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and I have therefore requested the Secretary of the Interior to convey this mesasge of greeting to the conference and to express my earnest hope that its deliberations may bear fruit in the well-being and advancement of the colored race in our country. Their progress in education, wealth, in participation in agriculture, industry and civic life within the relatively short period since the Civil War is an amazing story of courage and enterprise in which the colored people take a proper pride, and which their neighbors of other races view with satisfaction and admiration.

Discussing health problems, Dr. Wilbur said the difficulties for colored people were intensified by congestion in urban areas, which deprived the Negroes of "their best friend, the sun." He said it was necessary for both white and colored people to decentralize themselves from urban areas. Dr. Wilbur pointed out that colored and white people would have to continue living together and it would be better to do it amicably. He saw no obstacle to continued progress of the colored race.

Independent Voting Urged

During the session devoted to the Negro in politics, both the chief speakers, Kelly Miller, dean at Howard University, and Robert W. Bagnall, of the association's national staff in New York, urged that the Negro vote independently of binding party commitments and that he exert his growing power particularly in the pivotal states of the North in behalf of his continued emancipation as a citizen.

Dean Miller said: "The Republican party that freed the Negro and wrote the Emancipation Proclamation is dead and gone."

"If the Democratas can find a high-minded gentleman as favorable to the Negro as Hoover is, the Negro is free to vote his choice," said Mr. Miller ironically.

Earl B. Dickerson, of Chicago, a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, predicted that the colored vote would be a decisive factor in Illinois this fall in view of the division of the white vote there on prohibition.

N. C. Bruce, of Jefferson City, Mo., said that not the present Democratic leadership but the Negro in pivotal states was altering the political situation.

Speakers at the night meeting included Senator Robert J. Bulkley, Democrat, of Ohio, and Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, editor of "The Crisis." Dr. Du Bois said that the association must choose whether to stand with "mass or class." He urged the enlistment of mass co-operation in the program of Negro advancement.

BATH, ME.
TIMES

JUN 22 1932

GREAT DEVELOPMENT OF NEGRO RACE FROM OLD SLAVERY DAYS TO PRESENT

Were Sold Like Cattle in Virginia Even Before Pilgrims Landed But Now Have Good Schools, Own Homes and in Business

Editor, The Times:—

A few months before the Mayflower landed the Pilgrims at Plymouth, there arrived at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619, in a Dutch man-of-war the first company of Negroes, 20 in number, who were sold as slaves among the early settlers of Virginia. These 20 Negroes were followed by ever increasing importations from Africa over a period of two centuries and more. A majority of them were large bodied men and women captured from tribes found in Central and Western Africa, most of them from an extensive region called Guinea They were first gathered in slave ports up and down the West African coast: from thence they were shipped to slave marts in the West Indies and the United States. In the first half of the 19th century one of these marts was located in Washington, D. C. It was not long before it began to be noticeable that many, if not most, of the children of slave mothers were some shade, often a decidedly light shade of brown instead of black. The Negro blood was being mixed with white blood. A new race of brown people was coming into existence. Masters freely, it might be said habitually co-habited with their slave girls. Such relations have been common wherever slavery existed. Children born of slave mothers came slaves. No special odium was attached to this state of things. Thomas Jefferson was reported, when President, to have regretted that certain of his own children, were denied the privilege of voting because they were mulattoes. When a light brown girl reputed to be the daughter of President Tyler and living among his colored servants in the White House eloped with a white man, she was punished by being sold "down river." The matter was so ordinary that it caused only a momentary wave of gossip in Washington society.

Patrick Henry was so impressed with the superiority of the mixed breeds that, while Speaker of the Virginia Assembly, he introduced a bill offering a state bonus to children of mixed parentage. Among the 14,000,000 colored people at present in the United States, it is estimated that fully 80 per cent have more or less white blood in their veins.

Towards the close of the 18th century slavery was a declining institution, not only in America but in the West Indies. Gen. Washington advised his friends to sell their slaves and invest in something likely to have a better future. Then, suddenly the entire future of the colored race in

America was changed.

Cotton was being successfully grown in a number of places in the South. World markets were demanding cotton cloth. The carding and spinning machinery of England was ready to supply the world's markets with cotton, if only they could obtain the raw material. The one thing lacking was some simple device for separating rapidly the fibre from the cotton seed. At just that time it happened—(how providentially important things do seem to "Happen" in the nick of time)—that a clever yankee, Eli Whitney, a recent graduate of Yale, came to South Carolina as a private tutor. He heard people discussing about the demand for cotton and the difficulty of cleaning cotton from seeds to which it clung He began thinking and tinkering and finally in 1793, evolved a contrivance called the cotton gin which rapidly separated the fiber from the seed. From that time cotton growing in the South surged forward. To plant and cultivate the new crop, slaves were required as never before. On the West coast of Africa the man hunt became furious and the breeding of slaves in this country became almost an industry. Negroes in America increased by 200,000 in the decade ending with 1800, by 300,000 in the following decade, and by over 500,000 in the ten year period that closed with 1830. With the resurgence of slavery in the cotton era, there grew up a passionate defense of the system and of the use of Negroes as slaves. The doctrine of racial inferiority was proclaimed with bitter intensity.

The president of William and Mary college wrote: "It is the order of nature that beings of superior faculties and knowledge, and therefore of superior power, should dispose of those who are inferior." From hundreds of pupilts in the South and from some in the North, preachers defended the institution of slavery. When I entered Dartmouth college in 1865, ex-President Nathan Lord was still living and was known as an ardent advocate of Negro slavery.

A century ago Negroes numbered a fifth of the population. At the time of

their emancipation

bv Lincoln they were about one-seventh; now the number is about one-tenth. On the day of their emancipation they numbered about four and a half million. They owned no property. Less than five per cent. of them could read or write. For two generations it had been a crime in the South to teach a slave the alphabet. In the past 69 years of freedom their accomplishments have been amazing. Thousands of them have attained positions well above the average in America, and hundreds have gained high distinction, judged by any standard in arts and literature and science. A recent survey by the United States Department of the Interior reports that the accumulated wealth of Negroes in America amounts to over two billions of dollars, that 700,000 Negroes own their own homes, that 232,000 own farms and 70,000 own or operate business enterprises.

In the reconstruction period following the close of the Civil war, the southern people, who were seriously impoverished, began to plan for the education of their children, and they did not leave out of their plan the children of their former slaves. During the decades immediately following the Civil war, the Negro received a fair share of the public funds. Colored schools sprang up rapidly; their terms were of the same length as those for white children; colored teachers were on the regular scale of wages.

But there was a period from 1890 to 1910 when the legislators of most of the southern states passed laws reducing the amount to be spent for Negro schools, and permitting local school boards to use their own discretion in the distribution of school funds. But there has come a change for the better. "Today," a friend of the race says "there is scarcely a county in the South, with any considerable number of Negroes which has not one or more well-equipped modern schools for the race. In many there is an extensive system, numbering 20 or more to the county, and covering not only the elementary years but the High school as well. Every southern state has established at least one college for the higher education of Negroes, especially for the

training of teachers.

In 1929 there were 2,124,000 Negro children in school in the Southern states, 120,000 of them in high schools. In that year 13,360 were enrolled in state colleges for Negroes in the South. Some 56,000 colored teachers are giving instruction, 1500 of them in colleges. At the close of the Civil war in 1865, 95 per cent of the former slaves were totally illiterate. Today less than 20 per cent are illiterate, and that number is steadily falling."

The story of Negro education in America would be inexcusably incomplete if it omitted mention of four universities founded by northern friends of the Negro, located at strategic places. The largest of these is Howard University in Washington, which includes Medical and other post-graduate schools. Under the distinguished leadership of President Mordecai Johnson himself a Negro, it is becoming one of the important universities of America regardless of race. Another center of higher learning is in Nashville, Tennessee—Fisk University—established immediately after the Civil war. Numbered among its founders and early teachers are men of high scholarship. They insisted upon offering to the freedmen the same kind and quality of learning that they themselves possessed. They established a standard and a tradition which make it easy to continue sound scholarship. It is claimed that the student body at Fisk is the best of any of the Negro colleges. It is under the presidency of Thomas E. Jones, another of the many Quakers who have led in Negro education. A third center of higher learning is located in Atlanta, Georgia. Atlanta University offers to colored people professional and graduate instruction. A fourth institution of higher learning is Dill University, the fruit of northern interest in Negro education. It is located in New Orleans, near the center of the most dense colored population in the South.

But after all that is done by philanthropy for the Negro in a nation of white men, and all that can be said about their achievements since their emancipation from slavery—there remains the undeniable fact of race divisions and antipathies that constitute a barrier which bars all intimate associations. Why should there be separate schools for the two races in the same community; why separate churches and theaters and hospitals and hotels; and why the "Jim Crow" car throughout the South?

On the 6th of November last, Miss Juliette Derricotte, dean of women at Fisk university, with three students, all of them colored, met with an automobile accident in the town of Dalton, Georgia and were seriously injured. The white physicians of the town rendered all first aid possible. The patients were removed from the doctors' offices to the private home of a Negro woman who is regarded as a practical nurse although she had had no training. There is a hospital in Dalton, but it is only for white people. So it was felt necessary (?) to have the four sufferers removed by ambulance over a cruelly rough road to Chattanooga, 36 miles away, where there is a hospital for colored people. Miss Nina Johnson, the student most seriously injured, died on the way. Dean Derricotte died 26 hours after her injury. She was a graduate of Talladega college and had taken

a master's degree

at Columbia. She was a member of the trustees of Talladega. She had been elected to membership on the national board of Y.W.C.A., twice she had represented the Student Movement in this country in meetings of the general committee of the World's Student Christian federation, once in England in 1924, and again in India in 1929. And yet this talented, accomplished, christian young woman, when suffering and dying from internal hemorrhage, was denied a bed in a hospital in a Georgia town.

Surely the presence of the two races, white and colored, destined, so far as we can see, to live together in this country to the end, gives to the stronger race a problem that will test their wisdom and magnanimity. Sir Arthur Leith, the distinguished British anthropoligist, in a recent article discussing the race problem in this country says: "What is the white race going to do with the 14,000,000 of black citizens? Will the problem be solved by fusion? My own belief is that the color feeling will neither lessen nor disappear; the opposite will happen; it will become stronger. But it does seem to me possible that the white race of European descent and the black race of African origin will, by mutual agreement, resolve to remain apart, each developing the qualities which nature has bestowed on them as a heritage from the evolutionary past. Whether two diverse races, living within the same territory and subject to a common government, can work out separate evolutionary destinies is an anthropological experiment of a new kind. Only time can reveal the issue."

OMAR W. FOLSOM.

KNOXVILLE, TENN
JOURNAL

SEP 5 19[illegible]

Progress of the Negro.

The negro race in America has made phenomenal advancement in education, economics, and religion during the last two decades.

Available statistics show that from 1910 to 1930 the literacy of the negro increased from 69.5 to 90 per cent.; that public school attendants increased from 1,670,650 to 2,289,389; that college students increased in numbers from 1,500 to 22,478; that college graduates increased in numbers from 3,856 to 18,000; and that the number of high schools increased from 91 to 1,000.

Homes owned by negroes increased in numbers during the same period from 500,000 to 750,000, business enterprises conducted by them increased from 20,000 to 70,000, and wealth accumulated by the race increased from $700,000,000 to $2,600,000,000.

The number of negro church communicants increased from 3,800,000 to 5,200,000 and the value of their church property increased from $57,000,000 to $200,000,000.

Progress of the race was given impetus by the Phelps-Stokes Fund established in 1911 which had for one of its objects the education of the negro in America and in Africa.

This fund was the result of a provision in the will of Miss Caroline Phelps Stokes of New York who died in 1909.

Numerous other bequests and endowments and liberal provision made by public authorities in this country have contributed to the growth of the negro in the arts of citizenship.

PASADENA, CAL.
STAR-NEWS

SEP 23 1932

EMANCIPATION HAS ADVANCED NEGRO

Seventy years ago, on September 22, 1862, Abraham Lincoln, as President of the United States, promulgated the Emancipation Proclamation. It was to take effect one hundred days from its annunciation. In the annals of the world no single action by the ruler of a nation affecting human liberties ever has been more important or more dramatic than was the promulgating of the Emancipation Proclamation. There were some 4,000,000 Negroes in slavery in the United States at that time.

The Proclamation became effective. The Negroes were freed. The shackles that for generations had bound these human beings to a system that was intolerable, suddenly were stricken off by the fiat of the Presidential pen. It was a climax in human history. But it brought its great and unprecedented problems. The Negroes were freed. But they had to start a racial career from zero and work upward. Fortunately, they had sympathetic white friends who encouraged them along the way.

In seventy years of freedom the American Negro has justified his emancipation and has demonstrated that he is capable of making his way in the world, and is capable of adding greatly to the national wealth by his industry and frugality. The American Negro has advanced definitely and remarkably. He has progressed in education. He has advanced in proficiency in the everyday arts of life. He has moved forward in his knowledge and understanding of good citizenship. He has acquitted himself admirably.

With each recurring observance of Emancipation Proclamation stress should be laid upon the marked progress that has been made by the Negro.

Progress of the Negro - 1932

THE NATIONAL PRESS

A RECORD OF NEGRO PROGRESS

How the condition of the Negro in this country has been bettered in the last two decades is set forth in the 20-year report of the Phelps-Stokes fund. The fund was established by the will of Miss Caroline Phelps Stokes, who died in 1909, for philanthropic and educational work among Negroes, both in this country and in Africa. The fund has smaller financial means than others devoted to similar purposes, but it has worked in such a multitude of related phases of the work that its directors are able to give a complete view of the whole field.

While much remains to be done along all lines, a table shows remarkable gains in Negro education. Literacy among Negroes was 69.5 per cent in 1910 and 90 per cent in 1930. Public school attendance increased in that period from 1,670,650 to 2,389,389; teachers rose in number from 3,857 to 18,000; annual expenditures for education from $13,061,700 to $61,719,929, and the number of high schools leaped from 91 to 1,000. This was done not entirely by outside help, but in accordance with the fund's tenet that the best results come by "working with colored people rather than for them." Along this line, the fund has been a leader in improving inter-racial relations and co-operation, by bringing together educated representatives of both races.

While the report laments that 1,000,000 Negro children of school age still are out of school, the ground gained by a race but 70 years out of slavery and only a few generations removed from primitive life is encouraging. The lessons learned here are being applied as well to the betterment of Negroes in Africa. Such a program achieves progress and roots out prejudice.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

KINGSTON, N. Y.
LEADER
SEP 2 1932

PROGRESS

A close and full record of the Negro's progress in this country and in Africa has been kept during the past 20 years by the Phelps-Stokes fund, and while the goal toward which white and colored leaders alike are striving are as yet a long way off, the advance in so comparatively a short time has been remarkable. In the South, in particular, there have come about better inter-racial relations, and as for the colored man in the South, it appears that as regards farm life the race as a whole is continuing steadily to progress. Ten millions of men of a class only 70 years removed from slavery are responding with amazing rapidity to the teachings of leaders in home and farm demonstrations and health work, and training schools and universities.

BOSTON, MASS.
EVENING TRANSCRIPT
SEP 9 1932

Negro Progress

The Phelps Stokes Fund has just published a report on the progress of the Negro race in America during the last ten years and its conclusions are that the advance in that time has been remarkable. The gain is chiefly credited to the aspiration and initiative of the colored people themselves, and it is significant that they do their best in contact with the whites, even in competition with them in certain fields in which their native powers have an opportunity to expand. The Fund has used its influence mainly through established educational institutions to bring together educated members of both races, in the hope of breaking down race prejudice and antagonism and to help the Negro to find his own place in the sun.

The Negro is barely three generations from slavery, a brief period in which to change him from a happy-go-lucky dependent to a free man with all a free man's sense of responsibility. How far had the Latins got in the thirty or more generations from Romulus and Numa to the Tarquins? or the Britons from Boadicea to Alfred? The constant aim of the Negro leaders should be to develop his race genius, not make him merely a shadowy copy of the white man. His brains are as different from a Caucasian's as those of an Asiatic or a North American Indian but when he applies his mental machinery to industries and arts for which he has a natural aptitude he shows a faculty of achievement which the whites cannot excel.

GAINS OF NEGROES SHOWN IN REPORT

Telegraph

Interracial Survey Shows Some Losses to Race in Economic Field in South

10-12-32

ATLANTA, Oct. 11 (AP).—Negroes of the South have suffered losses in the economic field while making encouraging gains in education, health, protection by the courts and political recognition, said a survey of recent trends in race relations made public today by the commission on interracial co-operation.

Among the favorable trends observed were improvement of educational facilities, indicating, said the commission, "a growing sense of responsibility for Negro education and of confidence in its value."

The economic losses were attributed to the "general economic breakdown." The situation has reduced the number of Negro land owners and driven many farm tenants and wage hands to the cities.

Tragic Situations

"Meanwhile, many white farm people also have grown discouraged or desperate and have sought refuge in urban industries," said the report. "The results have been pathetic and even tragic for multiutdes of both races. The Negro, constituting traditionally the marginal industrial group, has undoubtedly been the greatest sufferer."

Economic necessity has forced group competition along racial lines which has been added to personal competition and wide-spread replacement of Negroes by white workers has taken place in some instances the report set out.

Efforts of Communists to project themselves into the situation have failed, the survey said. "Whatever their sympathy with the economic and social ideals of Communism, Negroes apparently have little faith in the Communist technique of violence and revolution and no disposition to seek help in that direction," it was observed. "This attitude on the part of the Negroes and the comparative absence of hysteria on the part of white people in the face of the Communist threat, are both distinctively encouraging."

Essential Element

In conclusion of Negroes in community chest budgets and their participation in chest campaigns illustrate in the opinion of the commission another important trend, the increasing recognition of Negroes as an essential element in the community, both as assets and liabilities.

The health of Negroes has shown much improvement in recent years with a substantial decrease in the death rate and a gain of five years in the average life span.

The survey said the Negro's stand in the courts is steadily improving and his chance of getting justice becoming "less spasmodic and uncertain." The fall in the lynching record from an average of 100 victims a year for the 40-year period ending in 1921 to the recent annual level of 10 or 12, is emphasized as a great gain and as indicating a determined purpose to end mob violence.

Co-operation Spreading

The principle of inter-racial co-operation is being widely adopted in many forms of community and group activity, the commission found. The inter-racial commission originated in Atlanta and has spread throughout the South and into other sections of the country. It brings the leaders of both races into co-operative action for the mutual benefit of all concerned.

The census of 1930 reported a Negro population of 11,981,143. Of these 9,361,577 were in 16 Southern states (Maryland and Delaware included) and the District of Columbia, and 2,409,219 in other sections of the country.

Southern Negro Losing Economically But Gaining In Health And Education

ATLANTA, Oct. 11.—(AP)—Negroes of the South have suffered losses in the economic field while making encouraging gains in education, health, protection by the courts, and political recognition, according to a survey of recent trends in race relations made public today by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

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Negro Education and Health Making Gains, Survey Shows

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South African Government Official Finds Southern Negro Far Advanced

Slavery undoubtedly helped the American negro in his economic progress, although it must have been a hard lesson, Dr. John H. Holloway, of Pretoria, South Africa, who is investigating racial conditions here, said Tuesday.

Dr. Holloway is the director of the office of census and statistics for the helped him, although it must have been a hard lesson.

"I have not yet got far enough into the south to make a complete study of the negro. While here I intend to visit the negro colleges. Later I shall go to Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. I have made some investigation in the northern and central states of negro farms and institutions.

"The native African, except in a few localities, is still living in a tribal state, and the contrast is strong between his condition and that of his American brother."

Dr. Holloway is a past president of the Pretorian Rotary Club. On Tuesday he was a guest of the Rotary luncheon meeting. Later he conferred with Dr. W. W. Alexander, director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

Progress of the Negro-1932

WILMINGTON, DEL.
EVERY EVENING

JAN 28 1932

PROGRESS OF THE COLORED RACE.

The Negroes of this country have accumulated wealth exceeding $2,000,000,000, own and work more than 1,000,000 farms and conduct 60,000 business undertakings according to a statistician of the race. There are today more than 2,000,000 colored children being educated in the schools of the United States and they are being taught by competent and experienced teachers. The report declares that considering the colored man started in 1865—after his enfranchisement—at scratch, without shoes, land or "grub," this argues well for his advancement.

It is noted that most of the progress among the colored people is ascribed to education, and President John Hope, of the Atlanta (Ga.,) University, contends that with improved or still more efficient educational provision for colored youths their advancement will be even more rapid until he sees the Negro taking his place in the activities of the country.

The declaration of the colored educator is confirmed by statistics from some of the Southern States In Virginia, for example, the Negroes own and operate many farms, and are accumulating fair competences through agriculture—notably growing tobacco. It has always been interesting to watch their unfoldment as agriculturalists, which usually begins with the possession of a calf and small cabin. Through industry and economy this small beginning leads to a home and farm and starts the beginner on the way to a modest fortune. Once they are rooted in the tobacco or cotton states' soil they almost unfailingly go forward until they become factors in their communities.

It is conceded that the Negro has made good as a farmer and in many of the other vocations. Especially is that applicable to the Southern colored folks, and with more schooling and training in business and industry they will come into higher recognition as a progressive unit of our people. Of the race it may be said that they are now finding themselves and their rightful place in the economic world.

Economists urge the colored people to stick to rural sections, and engage in tilling the soil for which vocation the majority are best fitted. In other words they fit best into a country life background

WILMINGTON, DEL.
JOURNAL

JAN 8 1932

A WONDERFUL RECORD

IT is now over 60 years since the Negro was released from slavery and given the status of a citizen in our country whose wealth and general prosperity his labor has helped create.

The progress of the race within this period has surpassed the most sanguine hopes of the most ardent advocates. No group of people in history ever started from a more complete economic and cultural destitution.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Tuskegee Institute, recently celebrated, marks at the same time almost the semi-centennial of Negro progress.

Within that period the race has multiplied its wealth more than 130 times, has reduced its illiteracy from 95 per cent to 20 per cent, and reduced its death rate by one half. It has risen to the ownership of more than 750,000 homes, has accumulated property to the value of billions, has developed a far-reaching internal network of social religious and economic organizations for the continued advancement of its people, has produced leadership in all walks of life that for faith, courage, devotion and patriotic loyalty ranks with all the oth groups in our country.

News
Huntington, Ind.

JAN 15 1932

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MEADVILLE, PA.
TRIBUNE-REPUBLICAN

FEB 27 1932

THE EMERGING NEGROES.

Only 10 per cent. of the Negroes of the United States were literate in 1866, immediately after the Civil War. Now 90 per cent. are literate. This advance was referred to with pride by speakers at a recent conference on Negro history. In the process of education the number of Negro students increased from 100,000 in 1866 to 2,288,000 in 1930, the number of Negro schools for higher education from 15 to 800, the number of teachers from 600 to 56,000 and the amount of property for higher education from $50,000 to $60,000,000.

During these same years the number of Negro churches rose from 700 to 42,000, the number of communicants from 600,000 to 5,200,000 and the value of church property from $1,500,000 to $200,000,000.

After the Civil War only 12,000 homes were owned by Negroes. Now there are 750,000 such homes. The Negroes operated only 20,000 farms when they emerged from slavery, now they operate more than 1,000,000 farms. They conducted only 2,100 businesses, now they conduct 70,000. Their accumulated wealth has grown from $20,000,000 to $2,600,000,000.

This is an excellent record, particularly when one takes into consideration the social difficulties the race has encountered. Who's Who in America lists 97 Negroes. The race has contributed many artists, musicians, inventors and writers. They publish 350 newspapers in the United States, including the world's largest weekly, The Chicago Defender. There are 51 Negro banks doing an annual business of $75,000,000, and 21 Negro life insurance companies. They run ice cream companies, department stores, candy factories, restaurants, furniture manufacturing plants, contracting companies, and two New York City Negroes operate a fleet of 250 taxicabs, with a working force of 750 men and women. It is a matter of great satisfaction that a people so long subdued show these evidences of cultural and economic emergence.

BETTER FOR BOTH RACES.

In the daily rush of news-gathering and the need for condensation due to space limitations, it frequently happens that the less picturesque features of a story or speech receive too little emphasis. This was somewhat the case of the notable and eloquent address made by United States Senator Frederick C. Walcott, of Connecticut, at the dedication of the Atlanta University building a week ago.

Senator Walcott's review of the progress of the negro race in this country since slavery days was interesting and enlightening. Appraising the marvelous strides of the negro in both wealth and education, he revealed that 67 years ago the negro's total wealth was $20,000,000, while today it amounts to $2,000,000,000; and negro children in school have increased in number in that same period from 200,000 to 2,000,000 and illiteracy among the negroes has dropped from 95 per cent to 20 per cent.

The foregoing figures, eloquent as they are of the negro's praiseworthy acomplishments, are but beacon lights in the black man's progress. But Senator Walcott did not make statistics the keynote of his admirable speech. Rather, he drew a picture of the negro's oportunity to develop along lines which will benefit both the individual and the race.

The Constitution has reference to that portion of Senator Walcott's speech in which he said "college education is an absolute necessity for good professional training."

And the Connecticut senator added:

> It is fortunate that the time has come when one may speak plainly without offending anyone in advocating the training of negroes as leaders, as thinkers, as workers for the great mass of your people. There is great need for more physicians and more nurses. Many counties in the region where the colored population is the most dense have not a single colored physician, dentist or nurse.
>
> I hope the day will soon dawn when colored people, men and women educated in the south for professions, medicine, surgery, dentistry, will not have to go north of the Ohio river to practice, and negroes educated in the north may come south to practice and teach. We are all subject to the same human ills. Microbes are no respecters of persons. The colored people of the south are sadly in need of relief in matters of public hygiene.

This statement should be approved, particularly by the south, for it is in the south that the dangers hinted at by him are most threatening. Both whites and blacks are subject to the same ills, and disease is a respecter of neither persons nor race lines. And in our section the contact between the races, particularly in homes where servants are employed, opens the way to health-dangers which may best be obviated by prevention.

No one will disagree with Senator Walcott's expression concerning the importance of teaching medicine, surgery, and dentistry to the negro in the south. The need exists for thousands of well-trained negroes in these professions, in order that they may be equipped to minister to their race.

As the Connecticut senator said, "many counties in the region where the colored population is the most dense have not a single colored physician, dentist or nurse."

That the need so clearly set forth by Senator Walcott will be filled eventually is certain, and the sooner the better for both races.

CINCINNATI, O.
TIMES-STAR

APR 15 1932

"Progress of Negro Race in 70 Years Since Emancipation Truly Surprising"

Pathologist Asserts in Torch Club Address.

"The race problem will remain in this country for generations to come, but it is not entirely impossible of solution," declared Richard S. Austin, head of the department of pathology at the College of Medicine, University of Cincinnati, who spoke on "The American Negro," at the seventh annual meeting of the Torch Club, Thursday night, at the Vernon Manor.

"About one-tenth of the population in the United States, roughly 12,000,000 individuals, are recorded as 'colored,' according to the Federal census," he continued.

"To those many intelligent white persons who know little of the so-called 'race problem,' or of the condition of the Negro race, except what the daily press may give them in accounts of lynchings, race riots, and the like, the story of the steady advance of the Negro race in the United States since the days of reconstruction is largely unknown.

PRODUCES AMAZEMENT

"When it comes to them it produces amazement, which may be comforting or the reverse. The progress of a race may be indicated not only by the general rise in status of the mass, but by the achievements of its outstanding members. Many Negroes, an increasing number, have attained distinction in the field of education, in the liberal professions, in science and in the arts. In recent years there has been a growing recognition on the part of intelligent white opinion of the valuable contributions made by Negroes to music, poetry and the drama.

"The progress which has been made by the Negro race in the seventy years since emancipation is truly surprising when its condition at the beginning of this period is considered. For real advance has been made by the race. Health conditions have been greatly improved, although not very frequently as yet up to the best white standards, but the mortality rates in general and for particular diseases have dropped steadily; that these rates are still generally higher than they should be constitutes a menace not only to Negroes, but to whites, for disease has little respect for race or imaginary boundaries. In farming, in business, in industry Negroes are making more and more of a place for themselves.

700,000 OWN HOMES

"The United States Department of the Interior states that 70,000 own or operate business enterprises, 232,000 own farms and 700,000 own their homes, while the wealth of the race totals two billion dollars. Of course, there are many Negroes without genuine economic independence, but many white persons are in the same position today in this country.

"Even the political influence of the Negroes amounts to something these days, whether in the North, where they may vote (often as unwisely as the white voters) or in the South, where they usually may not. Despite the traditional prejudice against the Negro in the South, where still the general feeling is that he must be 'kept in his place,' the white and black races are engaging in many cooperative activities of educational, economic and even social character."

NEW YORK TIMES

MAY 19 1932

PRESIDENT PRAISES PROGRESS OF NEGRO

He Sends Personal Greeting to National Association Conference in Capital.

WILBUR DELIVERS MESSAGE

Reports Made During the Day Told of Importance of Negro Vote and Scored "Lily White" Policy.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—President Hoover today sent a personal greeting and an official welcome to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which opened its annual conference here yesterday.

His message was conveyed by Secretary Wilbur, who preceded his reading of the President's letter with an assurance of the President's regret that he had been unable to attend the meeting.

"I have just come from the White House," Mr. Wilbur said, "and the President, as he gave me the letter I bring to you, asked me to say that in sending it he did so with an active sense of personal interest, and was so sorry that he was too busy today to come here personally to welcome you."

The President's letter was as follows:

"I am prevented by press of public duties from being present at the twenty-third annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and I have therefore requested the Secretary of the Interior to convey this message of greeting to the conference and to express my earnest hope that its deliberations may bear fruit in the well-being and advancement of the colored race in our country.

"Their progress in education, in wealth, in participation in agriculture, industry and civic life within the relatively short period since the Civil War is an amazing story of courage and enterprise in which the colored people take a proper pride and which their neighbors of other races view with satisfaction and admiration."

Secretary Wilbur addressed the conference on the special health, educational and economic problems of the Negro race, concluding with a tribute to the "remarkable progress" already made toward their solution.

The importance of the Negro vote in the national elections this year was emphasized in reports submitted this morning by delegates from all parts of the country, several of whom took occasion to denounce the "lily white" Republican policy in the South, for which they held the President, as well as other party leaders, responsible.